

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## ***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam***

***For Further Information, Contact:***

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***Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jill L. Burkhardt (619) 557-7047 or Renee M. Bunker (619) 557-7853***

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***For Immediate Release***

### **NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - February 19, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today the unsealing of two complaints charging a total of 17 individuals with federal drug-trafficking offenses, arising from the distribution of cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin in the Southern District of California.

One single-count complaint charges Hilda Consuelo Ruiz-Nevarez with conspiracy to distribute cocaine in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(a)(1). The other complaint charges 13 defendants (listed below) in Count 1 with conspiracy to distribute cocaine; two defendants in Count 2 with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine; six defendants in Count 3 with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and heroin; and three defendants in Count 4 with possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, all in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(a)(1).

According to court documents, the investigation initially focused on Tomas Castaneda-Jimenez, alleging he led several associates selling distribution quantities of cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin. An affidavit filed in support of the complaint indicates that the investigation subsequently disclosed

Heliodoro Lopez-Fonseca and Olga Luz Aguilar as cocaine suppliers for Castaneda-Jimenez. Lopez-Fonseca and Aguilar also allegedly oversaw associates of their own in this drug-distribution organization. In addition to distributing cocaine, Lopez-Fonseca and his associates are also alleged to have conspired to distribute methamphetamine. According to the affidavit, Lopez-Fonseca and Aguilar conspired with Israel Yanez-Aguilar, another supplier of distribution-quantities of cocaine. In addition, according to the affidavit, agents were able to identify Hilda Consuela Ruiz-Nevarez as a source of supply in Mexico who provided cocaine to Lopez-Fonseca, Aguilar, Yanez and Castaneda. According to court documents, the investigation also identified numerous other associates and customers of Ruiz, Lopez-Fonseca, Aguilar, Yanez and Castaneda. Court documents allege that in conjunction with the interception of hundreds of conversations through court-authorized wiretaps, DEA agents and task force officers seized approximately three pounds of methamphetamine and over three kilograms of cocaine. The approximately 11-month investigation was directed by special agents and task force officers assigned to the DEA, San Diego Field Division.

United States Attorney Lam praised the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) for the coordinated team effort in the culmination of this investigation, stating “These charges are a result of the cooperative effort that will continue to be made by all law enforcement agencies in this District to attack the scourge of narcotics trafficking.”

Agents from United States Marshals Service, San Diego Police Department, National City Police Department and the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement as well as the San Diego District Attorney’s Office, assisted the DEA in this OCDETF investigation. The OCDETF program was created to consolidate and utilize multiple law enforcement resources in the battle against major drug trafficking.

## **DEFENDANTS**

**HILDA CONSUELO RUIZ-NEVAREZ** (Fugitive)  
Tijuana, BC, Mexico (Single Count Complaint)

**Four Count Complaint:**

**HELIODORO LOPEZ-FONSECA** (Custody in Mexico)  
(Cts. 1 & 2)  
San Diego, CA

**OLGA LUZ AGUILAR** (Custody)  
(Ct. 1)  
Spring Valley, CA

**JOHN DOE #1**, aka Guero (Fugitive) (Cts. 1 & 2)

**LORENZA CORRAL-MENDEZ** (Custody)  
(Ct. 1)  
Tijuana, BC, Mexico

**ISRAEL YANEZ-AGUILAR** (Custody)  
(Ct. 1)  
Chula Vista, CA

JOHN DOE #2, aka Capiro, T/N **Martin Zamarripa-Luna** (Custody)  
(Ct. 1)  
Tijuana, BC, Mexico

**TOMAS CASTANEDA-JIMENEZ** (Fugitive)  
(Cts. 1, 3, & 4)

**BENJAMIN LOPEZ-LOPEZ** (Custody)  
(Cts. 1 & 3)  
San Diego, CA

**OSCAR ACUNA-CASTANEDA** (Fugitive)  
(Cts. 1 & 3)

**EDGAR ACUNA-CASTANEDA** (Custody)  
(Cts. 1 & 3)  
San Diego, CA

**PEDRO VALLES-MINJAREZ** (Fugitive)  
(Ct. 1)  
Denver, CO

**DANIEL ROY WEST** (Custody)

(Ct. 1)

Aurora, CO

**BRUCE WAYNE HEARD**, (Custody)

(Ct. 1)

San Diego, CA

**ANDREW JOHN FOLK** (Fugitive)

(Cts. 3 & 4)

San Diego, CA

**KENT OSCHIP** (Fugitive)

(Ct. 4)

**MARICELA FLORES** (Fugitive)

(Ct. 3)

Mexico

### **SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Number of Defendants: 17

Charges : Conspiracy to distribute cocaine, methamphetamine and heroin in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846; possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846.

### **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

Drug Enforcement Administration

United States Marshals Service

San Diego County District Attorney

San Diego Police Department

National City Police Department

Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

**A complaint itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.**